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OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

EVIDENCE DIVISION

Date : 22 July 1948

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Chief, Document
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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Nuremberg, 6 July 1948

Paul Joosten

PAUL A. JOOSTEN

General Secretary
International Military
Tribunal

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COPY

Report on Sterilization in Germany and occupied countries

to be sent to the members of Committee I

Submitted by Dr. B. Ecer.

Some time ago the Czechoslovak representative on the United Nations War Crimes Commission received through the Czechoslovak Minister in Berne the enclosed report of Dr. med. habil. Theo Lang, now senior medical officer at the Kantonale Heil-und Pfleganstalt Herisau (County Hospital) Switzerland. (Enclosure A). Dr. Lang asked for the report to be forwarded to the United Nations War Crimes Commission.

Dr. Theo Lang had been working at the German Research Institute for Psychiatry in Munich until 1941. According to his report as early as 1937 methods of sterilisation were discussed in circles of well known German doctors-so-called authorities on the subject of racial hygiene. It was intended to sterilize in a way unnoticable to the victims, persons "undesirable from a racial point of view".

These discussions obviously had at first no results. They were, however, taken up again after the occupation of Poland. Dr. Lang believes it to be likely that already in 1940 experiments were carried out and possible that sterilizations were later practiced in Germany as well as in occupied countries.

Dr. Lang's information should be considered sufficient for further steps and I, therefore, propose that the United Nations War Crimes Commission approach the military authorities in Germany with a view to interrogating the persons indicated by Dr. Lang and generally investigating the whole question.

Dr. Lang further handed to the Czechoslovak Minister in Berne notes on a report which he had made on January 2nd 1942. This report contains material concerning the murder of infirm and aged persons in Germany. A translation of these notes is enclosed. (Enclosure B).

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ANNEX A

Dr.med.habil. THEO LANG
actually head-physician at
the Cantonal lunatic asylum
at Herisau in Switzerland

/Until 1941 acting at
the German Research Institute
for Psychiatry at Munich/

Herisau/Switzerland/
May 10th 1945.

To the
Interallied Commission for the Investigation of War Crimes.

Gentlemen: -

Hereby I propose to you also to investigate, whether through official Services of the National-Socialists, especially such as the S.S., also the so-called "unknown sterilizations" have been carried out on opponents of the systems, as also on inhabitants of the occupied territories. It would here be the question of an application of X-rays on the germ glands, during a radiation or the phototyping of such radiation, of itself quite unsuspected. The reason why I draw your attention to this possibility consists in the following. After the "Law concerning the prevention of the ill after-growth by heredity", enacted in the year 1934, had met with some resistance on the part of the population, the following German race-hygienic authorities discussed already in the year 1937 the question, whether it would not be possible to render sterile "elements undesirable as to race" quite unconspiciously, at the same time with an ordinary radiation of the thorax, by means of an increased dosis of rays, or by means of the use, at the same time, of a second tube directed at the abdomen and this in a way that the parties concerned would remain quite unaware of the infecundity performed on them. The names of the race-hygienic authorities discussing this problem were:

1st: Professor Dr. med. Ernst Rüdin, ordinary public professor for psychiatry and race-hygiene at the Univeristy of Munich, Director of the "Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institute for genealogy and demography of the German Research Institute for Psychiatry at Munich, Director of the Institute for race-hygiene of the University of Munich and "chairman of the working-community II for race-hygiene and race-politics of the Practitioner-Council for politics of population and race of the Ministry of the Interior of the Reich", Promoting-member of the S.S. and member of the Federation of Swiss National-Socialists.

2nd. Dr. med. and phil. Albert HARRASSER, his scientific assistant for anthropological work /an Austrian, who directly or indirectly took part in the murder of Dollfus and soon afterwards was admitted by Rüdin at his institute/ at that time Counsellor of race-hygiene in the Staff of the Superior S.A. leadership, in reality however and most probably a member of the SS security service for the supervision of the S.A. leadership.

3rd. Dr. med. Friedrich Stumpfl, the scientific co-worker of Rüdin in the domain of criminal-biology, later on professor for race-hygiene at the University of Innsbruck /also an Austrian/.

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4th Dr. med. Heinz Riedel, at that time SS-Sturmfuehrer /Later on most probably SS-Sturmbannfuehrer/ a stipendiary of the Reichsfuehrer of the SS and aggregated to Professor Rüdin as scientific worker.

I am naturally willing to confirm my above made statements under oath.

The proceedings discussed was at that time not followed up, with the explanation that the technical difficulties were too great.

Soon after the occupation of Poland the question of the unconspicious sterilization was again taken up and this not only by the aforementioned persons, but with them also by the following National-Socialists:

5th Dr. phil. Bruno Kurt Schultz/also an Austrian/ at that time professor for race-hygiene at the Superior School for bodily exercise at Berlin-Charlottenburg, "Chef des Rassenamts der SS", and SS-Standartenfuehrer, lately also professor for race-hygiene at the German Karl University at Prague.

6th. Dr. med. Herbert Linden, Ministerial Director in the Ministry of the Interior of the Reich, SS-Oberfuehrer.

7th. Dr. med. Carl Heinz Rodenberg, Ministerial Director in the Ministry of the Interior of the Reich and SS-Oberfuehrer, previously scientific assistant at the institute of Professor Rüdin.

Probably the following was also called upon.

8th. Dr. med. and Professor H. Holfelder, Director of the Institution for X-rays of the chirurgical section of the clinique of the University at Francfort on the Main, also a member of the S.S.

As the whole matter was dealt with in secrecy, and outside of the institute for research, I was prevented to gather more exact informations, but I have reason to believe that already in 1940 corresponding experiments were carried out.

It is quite probable that about the whole question more conclusive information might be obtained through Professor Dr. N.W.Timoreeff-Rassovsky, the Leader of the genetical section of the Kaiser Wilhelm-Institute for brain research at Berlin-Buch. Professor Timofeeff has been, up to 1941, especially anti-national-socialistic and was also very well informed about the cruelties which were being carried out at that time in Poland. I have had with him a conversation about these and other happenings and some scientific problems at his Institute on the 23rd of January 1941.

In order to underline my statements, I would draw the attention to the fact, that I was the first expert of psychiatry who abroad made precise indications concerning

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the erection of institutions for gasification. The indications which are enclosed hereby in copies were given by me personally during my interview to a gentleman of the English secret service. /Mr. Farrel of Geneva/ and were completed by verbal statements. This indicated interview took place on the 2nd of January 1942 at Berne in the domicile of the family Climencon, Bubengartenplatz 10. It may be that my statements were not forwarded to the services interested or that such found no faith even though the indications were very clear and precise and the regularity of which can now be easily proven. In order to prevent that my statements shouldagain be directed to the wrong parties or find no attention, I now make the aforesaid indications by two separate ways /each time in German and English/ and direct them to you and I surmise that according to my experiences you will be fully interested.

Concluding I would like to state that all German doctors, first of all those working at clinics of a psychiatrical nature and those working at lunatic-asylums, were aware at least at the end of 1940/41 of the gasifications of insane and nervously ill, as well as of the executions of the healthy ones but unagreeable according to race in Germany and Poland. This has also been confirmed to me quite especially by Professor Dr. M.H. Göring / a cousin of the marshal of the Empire/ Director of the German-Institute for psychotherapy at Berlin, at that time Oberfeldarzt of the Luftwaffe and with whom, in order to start a counter-action, a conversation was held by me with him on the 20th of January 1941 in his institute at Berlin. Naturally he declined on account of the general lack of civil-courage, to sign a statement planned by me against these gasifications and which should have circulated in the medical circles and laid before the Government, and this although he had pronounced himself against such gasifications before me.

Most respectfully,

/sgd./ Dr. Th. Lang

ANNEX B

TRANSLATION

Detailed Statement

on the murdering of ill and aged people in Germany.

1./ The murdering can be traced back to a secret law which was released sometime in Summer 1940.

2./ Besides the Chief Physician of the Reich Dr. L. Conti, the Reichsfuehrer SS Himmler, the Reichs Minister of the Interior Dr. Frick as well as other men, the following participate on the introduction of this secret law:

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a./ The Councillor of the Ministry Dr. Herbert Linden of the Reich's Ministry of the Interior.

b./ Dr. Staehle-Nagold, the Chief Physician of Wuerttemberg.

c./ Councillor of Medicine /Obermedizinalrat/ Dr. Hermann Pfannmueller, Director of the Sanatorium and Nursing Institution Eglfing-Haar near Munich.

d./ Professor Dr. Werner Heyde, Director of the Psychiatric and Neurological Clinic in Wuerzburg.

/To characterize Dr. Conti, who was born in Tessin, it may be added that he changes his name from Leonhard to Leonardo, according to the change in the German people's feelings, the friendship of the Axis or to the change of feelings in the European community/.

3./ As I have already stated, there were /after careful calculation/ at least 200.000 mainly mentally defficient, imbeciles, besides neurological cases and medically unfit people /these were not only incurable cases/, and at least 75.000 aged people.

4./ The murders were mainly accomplished in Muensigen /Wuerttemberg and Linz o/Danube; several gas-chambers with cremation chambers directly attached were constructed there. As the gas-chambers are next to the training grounds of the troops in Muensigen, it is believed that the mentally deficient who were murdered there, were used for experimenting with new poison-gasses.

5./ The transport from the institutions to the gas-chambers is carried out by SS Kommandos. These call themselves "Gemeinnuetzig Transport A.G., Berlin, Luetzowufer. This Limited Company also stores the individual medical case histories of the murdered inmates of the institutions.

6./ The inmates of the many smaller and middle-sized institutions were murdered almost without exception. The larger institutions are partly - to keep up the pretence to the outside world- still at hand, but they now only have a fraction of the original number of their inmates; for example there are now only some 500 inmates instead of 2500 in Berlin-Buch; in Stadtroda/Thueringen only about 150 instead of 600; in Kaufbeuren/Bayern only 200 instead of 1000, etc. Of the larger Sanatoriums and Nursing Institutions the following were already closed down completely some time ago; Illenau/Baden 800 inmates; Berlin/Herzberge 2500 inmates, Kreutzburg/Oberschlesien 1500 inmates; Sonnenstein/Sachsen 800 inmates; Werneck/Unterfranken-Bayern 1111 inmates; Steinhof/Wien 3000 inmates, and others, most probably now also Schleswig with 1000 beds. Guenzburg with 400 etc.etc.

7./ The following procedure is popular with old people, who are still perfectly healthy and who possess their own flat: the competent"political leader" reports them for welfare purposes; then a physician /usually an SS doctor/ who establishes "the fact" that the old people

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are mentally deficient, appears; he suggests in Court that they are to be put under tutelage and that they are to be sent to a nursing home. This suggestion is naturally put into force. The old people are then sent from the nursing home to the gas-chambers.

8./ Partly a very indirect procedure for killing these old people is used. For example a quite sudden transfer of a home for aged people in a very short period is very popular, this being often ordered and carried out in only a few hours, in the hope that through the excitement already a part of the old people will be killed by an apopletic fit. The home for aged people is also frequently transferred into premises which are absolutely insufficient as far as sanitary conditions are concerned; another way is that suddenly all the nursing staff are called up for work in the Red Cross or in a munitions factory and the helpless patients are left to look after themselves.

Art
OUT

Written in December 1941,
/sgd/ Dr. T. Lang.

This is to certify, that the above report by Dr T. Lang is dated Dec. 1941 is part of the official report of the Czechoslovak War Crimes Commission

Nuremberg 8. Dec. 1945.

for Col. De Eck.
capt. Dr Kochwald.

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TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT 1556-PS
OFFICE OF US CHIEF OF COUNSEL
USA 716

Bericht über Sterilisierung in Deutschland und den besetzten Ländern; an die Mitglieder des Kommitées I zu senden. Übermittelt von Dr. B. ECER.

Anhang B
Übersetzung

Ausführliche Feststellung
über das Ermorden von kranken und bejahrten Leuten in Deutschland.

1.) Das Ermorden kann bis zu einem Geheimgesetz, welches irgend wann im Sommer 1940 erlassen wurde, zurück verfolgt werden.

2.) Ausser dem Obersten Reichs Arzt Dr. L. Conti, dem Reichsführer der SS Himmler, dem Reichsminister des Innern Dr. Frick, sowohl als auch anderen Herren, haben die Folgenden an der Einführung dieses Geheimgesetzes teilgenommen:

a) Der Ministerial-Rat Dr. Herbert Linden vom Reichsministerium des Inneren.

b) Dr. Staehle-Nagold, der Oberste Arzt von Württemberg.

c) Obermedizinalrat Rd. Hermann Pfannmueller, der Direktor des Sanatoriums und der Pflege Anstalt Eglfing-Haar bei München.

d) Professor Dr. Werner Heyde, der Direktor der Psychiatrischen und Neurologischen Klinik in Würzburg.

3.) Wie ich bereits erklärt habe, gab es (nach sorgfältiger Berechnung) mindestens 200 000 hauptsächlich geistig Minderwertige, Schwachsinnige, neben neurologischen Fällen und dienstuntaugliche Menschen (dies waren nicht nur unheilbare Fälle) und mindestens 75 000 bejahrte Leute.

4.) Die Morde wurden meistens in Münsingen (Württemberg) und in Linz a/der Donau ausgeführt; dort wurden mehrere Gaskammern mit direkt daran angeschlossenen Verbrennungskammern erbaut. Da sich die Gaskammern nahe dem Truppen-Übungsgelände in Münsingen befinden, wird angenommen, dass die dort ermordeten geistig Minderwertigen zu Versuchen mit neuen Giftgasen gebraucht wurden.

5.) Der Transport von den Anstalten zu den Gaskammern wird von SS Kommandos durchgeführt. Diese nennen sich "Gemeinnützige Transport Aktien Gesellschaft Berlin, Lützowufer. Diese Aktiengesellschaft (Anmerkung des Übersetzers· Im Englischen ist der Ausdruck "Limited" = Ges. mit beschränkter Haftung, scheinbar irrtümlich gebraucht) verwahrt auch die individuellen medizinischen

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Einzel Berichte der ermordeten Anstalts Insassen.

6.) Die Insassen der vielen kleineren und mittel grossen Anstalten wurden fast ausnahmslos ermordet. Die grösseren Anstalten sind teilweise - um den Schein gegenüber der Aussenwelt zu wahren - noch vorhanden, aber sie beherbergen jetzt nurmehr einen Bruchteil der ursprünglichen Anzahl ihrer Insassen: Zum Beispiel gibt es jetzt nur noch einige 500 Insassen anstatt 2500 in Berlin-Buch: in Stadtroda/Thüringen nur noch 150 anstatt 600; in Kaufbeuren/Bayern nur 200 anstatt 1000, etc. Die folgenden grösseren Sanatorien und Pflege Anstalten wurden bereits vor einiger Zeit vollkommen aufgelöst: Illenau/Baden mit 800 Insassen; Berlin/ Herzberge mit 2500 Insassen, Kreutzburg - Oberschlesien mit 1500 Insassen; Sonnenstein - Sachsen mit 800 Insassen; Werneck - Unterfranken - Bayern mit 1111 Insassen; Steinhof - Wien mit 3000 Insassen und andere, darunter höchstwahrscheinlich jetzt auch Schleswig mit 1000 Letten. Günzburg mit 400 etc. u.s.w.

7.) .....

8.) .....

geschrieben im Dezember 1941

gez. Dr. T. Lang

(handschriftliche Anmerkung)

Es wird hiermit bescheinigt, dass der obige Bericht Dr.T.Langs, datiert Dezember 1941 ein Teil des offiziellen Berichtes der Czechoslowakischen Commission zur Untersuchung von Kriegsverbrechen ist.

Nürnberg, 8.Dez. 1945 für Oberst Dr. Eder

gez. Hauptmann Dr. Hochwald.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION
OF DOCUMENT 1556-PS

10. Dezember 1945.

Der Unterzeichnete bestätigt, dass er mit der deutschen und englischen Sprache vertraut ist und dass das vorstehende Schriftstück eine genaue und wahrheitsgetreue Übersetzung des Dokuments Nr. 1556-PS ist.

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